(iii) better adhesion between aggregates and binder (iv) increase in fatigue life (v) resistance in reflective cracking. The cost of bituminous layer with rubberized bitumen as used for the works under Improvement of Riding quality Programme in Kerala is about Rs. 7.00 lakhs per km.

National Highway Status to Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway

†897. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give status of National Highway to Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway on the basis of norms laid in this regard; and

(b) if so, whether Government would sanction the requisite amount for the same during the year 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) At present there is no proposal to convert the Shimla-Chadhgaon Highway into National Highway.

(b) Does not arise.

Progress of National Highways Development Project

898. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy additional cess on petrol and diesel for developing road infrastructure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other steps proposed to expedite slow progress of the National Highways Development Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) Resource mobilization for developing road infrastructure is a continuous process. Levy of cess on petrol and diesel is one of the options for resource mobilization. Progress of National Highways Development Project is on schedule.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.